CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for handling collaborative electronic mail messages , comprising:

receiving from an electronic mail server an indication of an electronic mail message;

accepting a command made available by an electronic mail program for manipulating electronic mail messages;

determining whether the indicated electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message; and

when the indicated electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message, performing the command, the performing including sending to the electronic mail server an indication of the command so that the electronic mail server can modify content of the collaborative electronic mail message in accordance with the command and notify recipients of the modification, thereby performing a different action for the command than the electronic mail server performs when the indicated electronic mail message is not a collaborative electronic mail message.

2.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the commands to manipulate the collaborative electronic mail message include a reply command.

3.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the commands to manipulate the collaborative electronic mail message include a forward command.

4.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the commands to manipulate the collaborative electronic mail message include a delete command.

5.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the commands to manipulate the collaborative electronic mail message include a flag for follow-up command.

6.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the indication comprises the collaborative electronic mail message.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the collaborative electronic mail message further includes a graph of responses to the collaborative electronic mail message.

10.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:
receiving a user selection of a portion of the graph; and
indicating which of a plurality of comments in the portion for feedback correspond to
    the selected portion of the graph.

11.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the user selection comprises positioning of a cursor over the portion of the graph.

12.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the portion of the graph comprises a bar of a bar graph.

13.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising:
receiving a user selection of a portion of the graph; and

indicating which of the one or more recipients corresponds to the portion of the graph.

14.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein a recipient corresponds to the portion of the graph if the recipient's response to the collaborative electronic mail message is reflected in the portion.

15.   (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein indicating which of the one or more recipients corresponds to the portion of the graph comprises displaying which of the one or more recipients corresponds to the portion in a box separate from the collaborative electronic mail message.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
displaying an identifier of the collaborative electronic mail message for viewing by a user;
changing the identifier when the collaborative electronic mail message is opened by the user;
receiving an indication that the collaborative electronic mail message has been modified; and
changing the identifier again to visually indicate that the collaborative electronic mail message has been modified.

19-76. (Cancelled)

77.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein when the indicated electronic mail message is not a collaborative electronic mail message, the performing includes sending to the electronic mail server an indication of the command so that the electronic mail server can handle the electronic mail message in accordance with the command.

78.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising enabling the command to be used with both collaborative electronic mail messages and non-collaborative electronic mail messages even when different actions will be taken based on whether the electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message.

79.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of handling collaborative electronic mail messages, the method comprising:

   providing from an electronic mail server program to an electronic mail client program an indication of an a received electronic mail message;

   accepting a command made available by an the electronic mail client program for manipulating electronic mail messages to handle the received electronic mail message;

   determining whether the received electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message;

   when the received electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message, modifying content of the collaborative electronic mail message in accordance with the command and notifying recipients of the modification; and

   when the received electronic mail message is not a collaborative electronic mail message, processing the electronic mail message in accordance with the command

so that a command with the same name can be used to process both collaborative and non-collaborative electronic mail messages but with different behaviors.

80.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 78 wherein the command is "reply all" and the behavior is to modify a previously received collaborative electronic mail message corresponding to which the "reply all" command was accepted.

81.   (Currently Amended) A system for handling collaborative electronic mail messages, comprising:

    an electronic mail client program providing a set of commands, the commands for manipulating electronic mail messages;

    an electronic mail server program that provides indications of electronic mail messages to the electronic mail client program, receives a command from the electronic mail client program in relation to an electronic mail message, and modifies content of the electronic mail message and takes an appropriate action for the received command depending on whether when the electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message, and takes a different action when the electronic mail message is not a collaborative electronic mail message.

82.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 81 wherein when the electronic mail message is a collaborative electronic mail message, the appropriate action includes modifying the collaborative electronic mail message in accordance with the command and notifying recipients of the modification.

83.   (New) A method performed by a source electronic mail server for handling collaborative electronic mail messages , comprising:

    receiving from an electronic mail client program a collaborative electronic mail message;

communicating the collaborative electronic mail message to a first recipient electronic mail server and a second recipient electronic mail server;

receiving from the first recipient electronic mail server a response to the collaborative electronic mail message, the response provided to the first recipient electronic mail server by an electronic mail client program associated with the first recipient electronic mail server;

modifying the collaborative electronic mail message based on the received response to the collaborative electronic mail message; and

communicating the modified collaborative electronic mail message to the second recipient electronic mail server so that the second recipient electronic mail server can provide the response to an electronic mail client program associated with the second recipient electronic mail server.